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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/735,401	12/12/2000	Eckhard Alt	IFD/046	4641
490	7590	10/14/2005	EXAMINER	
VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A. 6109 BLUE CIRCLE DRIVE SUITE 2000 MINNETONKA, MN 55343-9185			THALER, MICHAEL H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/735,401

Applicant(s)

ALT, ECKHARD

Examiner

Michael Thaler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 61, 64, 65 and 68-88 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 83 and 84 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 61, 64, 65, 68-82 and 85-88 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 11, 2005 has been entered.

Claims 83 and 84 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP 821.03.

Claims 61, 64, 65, 68-82, 86 and 87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Purdy et al. (5,562,729). Purdy et al., in figure 24, disclose stent 102 which is inherently expandable since it is resilient as indicated in col. 8, line 36, which inherently maintains the patency of a bodily vessel since it supports it, having struts 150, which in a cross-section perpendicular to the flowpath have thicker portions (shown in the strut 150 closest to the viewer of the figure as being on the left and right portions of the strut and measured in a radial direction of the stent) with a narrower portion therebetween (due to the space which receives members 110 and

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128) and have a greater width (as measured in a circumferential direction of the stent) than thickness (as measured in a radial direction of the stent). Alternatively, it would have been obvious that the Purdy et al. stent 102 maintains the patency of a bodily vessel since it supports it. As to claim 64, struts 150 have a serpentine configuration since they undulate up and down as they extend circumferentially around the stent. As to claim 65, struts 150 are curvilinear since they curve in the circumferential direction. Further, the struts 150 are disposed about a multiplicity of through-holes (the open spaces between the struts 150). As to claims 69 and 71, Purdy et al. disclose bands (band 110 and the band which forms struts 150) connected to one another via connector (the biocompatible material which immediately surrounds band 110 to embed band 110 therein and which is described in col. 8, lines 45-47 and which is shown in figure 20 and 24). As to claim 72, stent 102 has a taper near the top of struts 150 as seen in figure 24. As to claim 74, the outer diameter has a taper shown in figures 22 and 25 due to the recess (best shown in figure 22) which reduces the outer diameter in that area. As to claim 86, the stent 102 is open at both ends before the leaves 104 are attached thereto and even after the leaves are so attached when the leaves 104 open.

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Alternatively, it would have been obvious that stent 102 is open at both ends for these reasons.

Claims 86 and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andersen et al. (6,582,462) in view of Johnson (5,449,384). Andersen et al. disclose a stent 1 having struts (wires 2, 3). Andersen et al. fail to disclose the struts having a cross-section which includes a necked region. However, Johnson teaches that the struts 622 of a stent which holds a valve prosthesis should have this shape (figure 15) in order to obtain the advantage of better securing the aortic wall material to the stent by tucking the aortic wall material into the grooves of the struts (col. 5, lines 29-39). It would have been obvious to so shape the Andersen et al. struts so that it too would have this advantage. The width of the struts (measured from top to bottom in figure 15 of Johnson) is greater than their thickness (measured from left to right in figure 15 of Johnson). As to claim 88, the Andersen et al. struts (wires 2, 3) are connected such that closed pathways are formed about a multiplicity of through holes in the wall as seen in figures 1 and 2.

Claim 85 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Savin et al. (4,950,227). Savin et al., in figure 5, disclose a stent 16 formed from an open ended tube

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having a wall with a multiplicity of holes formed therethrough, the tubular wall defined by a plurality of struts, the stent tapering from the midpoint to each end of the stent at a substantially constant slope in relation to the longitudinal axis (as seen in figure 5). As to the phrase "via the removal of material from the wall" in line 4, Savin et al. disclose that the stent may be formed of non knitted material in which case the holes are formed via the removal of material from the wall rather than by knitting the material. In any event, the phrase "via the removal of material from the wall" is a product by process limitation. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in a product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the product was made by a different process (M.P.E.P. 2113). In this case, the stent, as claimed, is certainly the same as or obvious from the stent shown in figure 5 of Savin et al.

Applicant's arguments filed August 11, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Since the Purdy stent is resilient (as admitted on page 6 of the remarks), it is expandable. Further, when expanded, the stent expands from a first diameter to a second diameter as the struts 150 move away from each other. As to claim 65, the open spaces between the

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struts 150 are through holes since they are openings in the wall (i.e. the wall which is formed by struts 150) which extend in a radial direction from the outside to the inside of the stent. As to claim 86, the allegation that there is no teaching in Anderson that the framework is capable of radial outward expansion from a first diameter to a second enlarged diameter is simply incorrect. Anderson teaches that the stent is expandable in col. 5, lines 22-24 and col. 7, lines 12-16.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Thaler whose telephone number is (571)272-4704. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan T. Nguyen can be reached on (571)272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9306.

mht
9/7/05



MICHAEL THALER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3731